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Title: =Forms of Execution=

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- A black leatherbound book fastened with a silver clasp shaped like a skull. -

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This is an overview describing several of the possible methods of execution available. It by no means lists -all- the variants or forms of death possible. This is simply a guide and a tool to aid Students of Death.

- Lady Dhae Massirith,  
Order of the Ebon Skull

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=Boiled to Death=

Usually the victims are boiled in a cauldron containing water, though some executioners use oil or tallow. The methods vary, from the prisoner

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+ An illustration of victim's being boiled in a large cauldron. +

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being placed in cold water which is then heated up, or forcing them into already boiling liquid, or suspending them from a beam and repeatedly dipping them into the bubbling cauldron.

=Blown from a Cannon=

Prisoners suspected of being spies can be blown from a cannon: tied over the muzzle of the artillery piece, which is then fired.

=Buried Alive=

This speaks for itself.

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+ A detailed illustration of a man buried up to his head in the ground as onlookers watch. +

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=Burning at the Stake=

This method is used mostly for people accused of heresy, and is used in two different ways. The first one, most commonly depicted, consists of using a heap of logs with a wooden stake on top where the "unfortunate" prisoner is attached with chains and ropes. The other method, consists of tying the condemned on a pole and heaping up the logs around him, so that he or she dies inside of the flames.

=Decapitation by the  
Sword or the Axe=

Decapitation (or beheading) by the sword is a very common method of execution. The condemned must kneel down and the executioner uses a horizontal blow of the

sword to cut his or her head off.

The Executioner's axe, and others similar to it, require considerable skill and accuracy to be used

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+ Sketches of several different axes with short description's under each. +

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by the wielder. More than one blow was the usual rather than the unusual.

The accessory of the axe is the block. The block is a section of an oak log, rectangular in shape, and scooped out midway along each of the longer sides.

=Flaying Alive=

Where the victim is actually being skinned alive. This is a more leisurely method of execution, the skin being peeled away from the top of the skull first, and then down over the shoulders and torso, though few victims actually survive once the breast bone is exposed.

=Hanging, the Gallows=

Self explanatory.

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+ An illustration of several prisoner's

hanging from the  
gallows. +

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=Impalement=

This is done by inserting  
a sharply pointed stake  
into his posterior, which  
then is forced through  
his body, emerging through  
the head, sometimes  
through the throat. This  
stake is then inverted  
and planted in the ground.

There are several  
different ways to  
impalment victim's, this  
just being the most  
popular and widely used.

=The Death of  
Twenty-one Cuts=

This entails the  
executioner slicing away  
pieces of the victim's  
body, then cutting off  
the limbs one by one,  
timing his or her carving  
so accurately that by the  
twentieth stroke, little  
is left, other than to  
administer the final blow.

=The Guillotine=

Once again, self  
explanatory. A popular  
form of execution in  
Nu'jelm.

=The Iron Maiden =

Infamous as a device  
used for both torture  
and execution. The victim  
is placed in the coffin

like container which has a woman's face sculpted on top of it. By closing the lids of the maiden, iron spikes are driven through the victims body, the positions having been selected in such a way that no vital part is hurt.

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+ A detailed illustration of an Iron Maiden, depicting both the outside and inside of the device. +

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Alternatly, the spikes can be re-ajusted to grant an agonizingly prolonged death, or one that is blessedly short.

=Torn Apart by Horses=

This entails the limbs of the body being pulled off by bolting horses.

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+ An illustration picturing a woman being pulled apart by four horses. +  
  
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